



Lester Life



MAY 2010

Distinguished Service Awards honor 10 District staff members

Ten District 58 staff members with a variety of job titles and responsibilities were honored April 8 at the annual Distinguished Service Awards ceremony sponsored by the District 58 Education Foundation. This year's DSA nominees were:

- Pierce Downer resource teacher Megan Finnegan
- O'Neill Middle School eighth grade science teacher Sarah Pinkus
- Hillcrest first grade teacher Leslie Walker
- Pierce Downer second grade teacher Beth Taylor
- Indian Trail reading specialist Julie Bianchin
- Lester School third grade teacher Amy Brown**
- El Sierra third grade teacher Diane Claver
- Hillcrest/El Sierra social worker Nancy Herkes
- Herrick/Indian Trail/Belle Aire school nurse Carol Christofano
- Hillcrest kindergarten teacher Katie Modine

All were honored for going above and beyond in their service to students; caring about the whole child; and having a positive impact on students. Each nominee received a plaque and an Education Foundation polo, both donated by Scot Press. The winner, Katie Modine, also received \$500 to use for her school and/or department, a \$100 gift card donated by Community Bank of Downers Grove, a large winner's plaque, and an Education Foundation blazer. The event was held at Emmett's, which donated appetizers for attendees to enjoy.

"To be nominated for a Distinguished Service Award is a high honor, one which forever makes the staff member part of an elite group in District 58. Each nominee is amazing and highly regarded, and each sets a higher standard for all employees of the district," said District 58 Education Foundation President Greg Bedalov, who emceed the well-attended event during which parents, colleagues and students shared heartfelt thoughts about the staff members they had nominated.

PICTURED: *Amy Brown with Jennifer Runge and Benjamin Reiselt*

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS THURSDAY, JUNE 3!

Therese's Garden



The Memorial Committee is in the final stages of planning for the Therese Creamer Memorial Garden. If you have not yet sent in a contribution but would like to (this is purely voluntary), donations will be accepted until Friday, May 14th. Please make any checks to the Lester PTA, in an envelope marked "Memorial Committee - Therese's Garden". Envelopes may be sent through backpack mail or dropped off in the school office. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 21st, at 3:00 pm, with more details to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Radigan at 630.769-9151 or ajradigan@yahoo.com. Thank you to all who have donated so far, including the following groups who have volunteered time. We are hoping to create a wonderful and lasting memory of Therese's presence at Lester.

Boy Scouts Wolf Den 2: Luke Prescott and brother Trevor, Matthew Thompson and sister Emma, Matthew Millhouse, Matthew Macek, Dylan Tlusty and brother Tyler, Mason Adams, Jackson Geist, Liam Mullen, Sam Barbado, Ethan Hall and his mom Denise Hall, and Den Leaders Sarah Thompson and April Prescott. **Girl Scouts:** Abbie Sobczak, Claire Salman, Kerigan Stadler, Cassidy Baran, Jasmin Olson, Marina Culafic, Carrie Kumiega, Lily Nielsen, Gillian Braun, Allie Rosati, Kate Dunlap, Kinzie Geist, Izzy Sobczak, Rachael Salman, Ava Nolan, Katie Lyda, Shelby Berghorst, Ana Klumb, Zoe Huspen, Sarah Nebijinates, Grace Nebijinates, Madeleine Frank. **Individuals and Businesses:** Amy Mills, Kurt Mills, Trevor Mills, Kathy Rieselt, Cut Above Landscaping

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Downers Grove Grade School District 58

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

Principal's Message



Dear Lester Families,

What a wonderful year we have had! I appreciate all of the hard work by our dedicated group of teachers and aides throughout the year. We will be honoring our staff during the week of May 3rd which has been declared "Teacher Appreciation Week."

Good luck to all of our 6th graders as they move on to the Junior High. We will miss you! I'm sure that you will make us proud!

On May 9th, we will be celebrating Mother's Day. Give a hug to all the "mothers" that touch your lives.

We send our wishes of continued good health and happiness to our Lester veteran educators who are retiring: Mrs. Roberta Diehl, Mrs. Linda Fisher, Mrs. Donna O'Toole, and Mrs. Lydia Selbka. They will truly be missed.

Thanks again to all of you - parents, staff, and community members - for such a successful year! Please contact me if you have any suggestions for improvements. I look forward to continuing to work together as a team in the future.

Wishing you days of sunshine!

Mrs. Novak



2010-2011 REGISTRATION

Watch for Registration Packets to be coming home soon! Your prompt attention to returning these items helps us to plan for the upcoming 2010-11 school year.

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LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Please mark your calendars. The last day of school will be Thursday, June 3rd. We have shortened school day with dismissal at 9:15 am. Get ready to enjoy your summer.

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FIELD DAY VOLUNTEER MEETING

Tuesday, May 25 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Come and sign up for a field day activity. We will be in the gym. Activities will be explained and demonstrated. Any questions, call Pat Brown at Lester.

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MEDICAL FORMS REMINDER

- Kindergarten, Second & Sixth Grade Dental Exams are due by May 15th
- School physicals for next year's Kindergarten and Sixth Grade students can be turned in anytime

Family Reading Night

Dozens of families enjoyed a night of great stories at the annual Family Reading Night sponsored by Lester PTA in April. Small groups heard age-appropriate dramatic readings provided by the Downers Grove North Speech Team. Participants came back together to hear professional storyteller Oba William King (pictured left). Mr. King entranced children and their parents with his stories and, by the end of the night, had many singing and clapping along.



Go to www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58
or click on the link on District 58's homepage, www.dg58.org
to join Twitter and follow DGDistrict58!

A Note From the PTA President

Dear Lester Parents -

Spring has finally sprung, and with it so many fun activities are going on in the PTA. Family Reading Night and Spring Book Fair were a great success, and we had some wonderful weather to celebrate Earth Week! May is possibly the most fun and frantic month at Lester. While parents are busy driving to practices, games, music, and after school activities, our kids are working hard on end-of-year projects and enjoying many PTA-sponsored field trips. Although the schedule is packed, taking a moment to appreciate all that we have achieved this year seems appropriate.

This past year, the Board has worked harder than ever to make sure Lester children continue to receive wonderful programs through the PTA, even in this very difficult economic time for District 58. I personally want to thank all of this year's Board members, who have

made my job much easier: Dawn Sirianni, Donna Chapin, Vicky Casey, Tammy Crosson, Amy Mills, and Tricia Tokash. These parents have spent many hours evaluating programs and fundraisers, volunteering, and attending meeting after meeting. Not to mention our spouses who have taken over the childcare while we are all busy accomplishing these feats! Together we have explored new fundraisers, eliminated some that have run their course, built a new website, increased our membership, and gotten some new parents involved. We have hosted our most successful Trivia Night to date, and recently pledged over \$16,000 to technology updates for Lester. This year we also sponsored Author's Fest, giving every child a chance to meet and learn from a published author. Programs like Breakfast with Books, Science Olympiad, Fun Fair, Family Reading Night, and Kane County Cougars Night bring us together as a community. Programs like Art

Awareness, Reflections, and field trips add to the curriculum. Some activities like Field Day (coming June 2nd) are just plain fun! Our emphasis continues to be what will benefit the kids the most, and we have tried to be true to that in all we do.

I mention all of these not just because I am proud of what Lester PTA has achieved this year, but mostly to thank all of the Chairpersons, parent volunteers and staff who make this possible. It really does take a village to accomplish what we do, and of course we could always use more help! The PTA will be sending periodic e-mail updates over the summer, so stay tuned for more information about how you can be part of Lester PTA (don't forget to check www.lesterpta.com for updates too). And most importantly have a FUN and safe summer!

Lara Vazquez
President

Lester PTA Donates Funds for New Technology



We were very fortunate to have such a fun and profitable Trivia Night this year, and at the April PTA meeting voting took place to donate over \$16,000 toward new technologies for Lester School. Based on requests from teachers and staff, the funds are being used for the following:

- Install Dukane and LCD systems for five more classrooms - approximate cost of \$8000.
- Install new sound system in gymnasium - approximate cost of \$3800.
- Complete whiteboard installations in last seven classrooms - approximate cost of \$3400.
- Purchase 14 Flip Cameras and all needed accessories to create a 'Camera Cart' - approximate cost of \$1000.

Thank you again for the hard work of all of the Trivia Night volunteers who makes these improvements to our school possible!

PTA Meeting Highlights

Meeting was held Thursday, April 22, 2010, in the LRC

Business Briefs:

- Website development continues; we are working on the PayPal rollout to get things ready for the fall. Please check your eBlasts for critical updates over the summer months.
 - Ending balance of \$41,101.81 on 3/31/2010.
 - Display My Art brought in just under \$1,000 and the orders will be available for pick-up at the Open House. Online ordering is still available on their website.
 - We are investigating a Fall Fun Run - looking at late Sept. early Oct. timeframe. We will continue with Butter Braids, but not sure if it will be fall or spring.
 - Amy Mills is still collecting committee chair folders for all chairs that are not continuing next year. Please give to Amy or put in the appropriate folder in the work-room.
- *Committee changes for 2010/2011 school year: we are eliminating Fluoride, Market Day, and Money That Matters.
- Committee Open Chairs: District 58 Rep; Lester Life; School Supplies; and Summer Math Club.
 - Open House - we will have art on sale, water bottles & hats; volunteers are needed.
 - Tickets (\$50) are still available for the Education Foundation's spring fundraiser featuring the Bacon Brothers. This concert will be held on Friday, May 14 at the Tivoli. Please go online to order your \$50 tickets at www.dg58ef.com or contact Debbie Drews at 630-960-0427 or Cheryl O'Sullivan at 630-886-5641 for

more information. You can also purchase tickets at the Community Bank of Downers Grove or the Dist. 58 Administrative Service Center located on 63rd Street. In the fall we will discuss how the grant process works for the Education Foundation at a PTA meeting.

- Presented the following candidates for nomination: Tricia Tokash, Treasurer; Tracy Driscoll, VP Membership; Tricia Pautsch, President-Elect. Voted to elect these candidates to the Board; all approved unanimously.
- Congratulations to Miss Amy Brown, who was nominated at the Distinguished Award ceremony a couple of weeks ago.
- Open house flyer will be coming home next week; the time is 6:00 - 7:30.
- Arbor Day is coming and we will have a tree planting ceremony on the 29th.
- Volunteer Appreciation is generally in May - it will be breakfast on a school morning, details will be coming out, still finalizing.
- We will be honoring our 4 retirement teachers: Mrs. Selbka, Mrs. Fisher (3rd Grade), Mrs. O'Toole, and Mrs. Diehl.
- June 3rd is the last day of school (early dismissal). 8/25/10 is first day of school for 2010/2011 school year.
- Mrs. Brown spoke about Roller Skating Week May 24-28. Kim Grimmer is coordinating the signup sheet.
- Field Day will take place on 6/2 - primary in AM (10 minute stations and they will be starting at 9:45 - 11:45) and older children in the afternoon. Lunch will be at 12:15. There will be a meeting at the end of May for volunteers to view games/rules and sign up: Tuesday 5/25 from 6-7. Sign up for lunch volunteers too.
- May 5th is our "all school walk" at 10:00 am. Parents are welcome.
- Mrs. Tully spoke on behalf of Sixth

Grade. They are very appreciative of books received in the past; they are looking for supplemental books needed to complete the series - it will be approximately \$350 plus shipping. The cost fits into our Special Classroom Projects Fund, so no vote was necessary.

Committee Reports and Ongoing PTA Fundraisers:

- Clothing Resale - Eileen Logan & Denise Hall are taking over. There will be a box in front hall for donations of Fall/Winter clothes only (5/3 - 5/7). Will have a volunteer signup sheet at the open house for the fall event.
- Field Day - Denise McCann - will get freeze pops and help with coordination of schedules with Mrs. Brown.
- Trivia Night - A motion was made to spend: \$3800 towards a new sound system; purchase 5 whiteboards and 2 (1/2 boards) to complete the school (which will be \$3300); purchase 5 Dukanes with LCD mounts and screens (8K); and \$1,000 toward the flip-camera cart. Totalling \$16,100. It passed unanimously. We are looking for 2 people to shadow current Trivia Night Chairs on the fundraiser part next year; it will be their last year chairing.
- DARE Update - Curriculum will be included in health and science curriculum. Proposed a couple of assemblies at North High School for 5th and 6th graders. There is a police officer at North. We may be asked for busing money, but it will be no more than the DARE t-shirts we pay for. There will also be a parent education portion.

Minutes are posted online and can be found at www.lesterpta.com. The next meeting is May 25 at 7 p.m.

LESTER PTA CLOTHING RESALE



Don't forget to MARK your Calendars! The 2010 LESTER CLOTHING RESALE is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th and SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th. VOLUNTEERS are needed. Contact Denise Hall 630.541.8056 or Eileen Logan 630.725.9198 Co-Chairs.

WORD OF THE DAY - MAY 2010

				1
				1
4	5	6	7	8
COMPROMISE <i>an agreement or a settlement of a dispute</i> We need to compromise on the plans for the party.	VERGE <i>on edge or border</i> The girl was on the verge of crying after she dropped her ice cream.	DRENCHED <i>wet thoroughly or soak</i> I fell in the stream and got drenched.	SCAMPER <i>run with quick, light steps</i> I saw the puppy scamper through the kitchen.	REQUEST <i>asking politely or formally for something</i> Can I request pizza for dinner?
11	12	13	14	15
ADAPT <i>become adjusted to new conditions</i> My dog will adapt to his new crate.	CONSEQUENCE <i>result or effect of an action or condition</i> The consequence for not doing my homework is staying in at recess.	PRECISE <i>exactness and accuracy</i> I need precise directions to the party.	WEARY <i>feeling or showing tiredness</i> He gave a long, weary sigh.	INQUISITIVE <i>curious or inquiring</i> The toddler was very chatty and inquisitive about everything.
18	19	20	21	22
WITTY <i>showing or characterized by quick and inventive verbal humor</i> The comedian was quite witty.	FLUSTERED <i>make someone agitated or confused</i> You will need to work under pressure and not get flustered.	HASTY <i>done or acting with speed or urgency</i> Don't make any hasty decisions.	AMBITION <i>a strong desire to do or achieve something</i> His ambition was to become a professional basketball player.	JOVIAL <i>cheerful and friendly</i> Mr. Frank is in a jovial mood.
25	26	27	28	29
CREAK <i>a harsh scraping or squeaking</i> The creak of the floorboard broke the silence.	SCRAGGLY <i>ragged, thin, or untidy in form or appearance</i> The stray dog looks scraggly.	SLITHER <i>move slowly across a surface</i> I saw a snake slither on the fence.	COURTESY <i>the showing of politeness in one's attitude and behavior toward others</i> It is common courtesy to say please and thank you.	PLUNGE <i>jump or dive quickly</i> I'm going to take a plunge in the pool this weekend.
				SWELTER <i>an uncomfortably hot atmosphere</i> We will swelter in the summer heat.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 12 Kindergarten Adventure (6 p.m.)
- 18 Half-Day
- 24-28 Roller Skating Week
- 25 PTA Meeting - 7 p.m. in LRC
- 28 Market Day Pickup (4 to 4:45 p.m.)
- 31 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

JUNE

- 1 Open House Reception for Retiring Staff (3-4 p.m.)
- 2 Field Day
- 3 Last Day of School

AUGUST

- 25 First Day of 2010-2011 School Year

SEPTEMBER

- 24/25 PTA Clothing Resale

District 58 Nets Top Financial Ranking

District 58's 2010 Financial Profile, which is based on 2008-09 school year data, places the district within the Financial Recognition range, the highest category obtainable. All Illinois school districts receive an annual rating from the Illinois State Board of Education, which takes into account financial indicators including fund balance to revenue ratio; expenditure to revenue ratio; days of cash on hand; and percent of short-term and long-term borrowing ability remaining.

American Lung Association Asthma Adventure Camp

July 4-9, 2010 at YMCA Camp Duncan, Fox Lake, IL

- Ages 7-14
 - Diagnosed with asthma and taking daily medications
 - Capable of walking – campers do extensive walking and hiking every day
 - Required to have received H1N1 vaccine (unless documentation obtained by physician due to allergy or actual diagnosis of H1N1).
- To receive an application call 1-800-788-5864 or visit LungIL.org.

Language Fair Open To Lester Students

The Downers Grove North World Language Club invites your child to participate in the 4th annual *DGN Language Fair for Kids*. Students from Downers Grove North High School will be teaching mini-lessons of French, German, Spanish, and other languages (Arabic, Italian, Hindi, etc.) vocabulary to the elementary students that attend. The elementary students will be placed in small groups by grade level and will be able to experience four different mini-lessons in total. Parents have the option of staying during this time or running errands and returning to pick their chil-

dren up at the end of the event; light refreshments will be available for those parents who would like to stay.

The event will be on Monday, May 17 from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Downers Grove North High School (4436 Main St.) in the student cafeteria. Parking is available in two locations: the Main St. parking lot in front of the school, or the Prince St. parking lot behind the school facing the football field. High school students will be stationed at both school entrances to direct participants to the cafeteria.

If you are interested in having your child participate, RSVP by Sunday, May 16 to Jennifer Mariman, World Language Club Sponsor, at jmariman@csd99.org. The event is free!!!

Please include your name and how many of your children will be attending, and each child's grade in school. (We are primarily looking for students in Grades K-6, but if you have an child in Grades 7-8 that you would like to attend then we will of course welcome his/her participation.

Get Ready for School !

A one-stop shopping event of health and human services for families living on low incomes in DuPage County with children ages newborn to 18 years.

Coordinated by Catholic Charities (www.cc-doj.org)

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

DuPage County Fairgrounds

2015 W. Manchester Road, Wheaton (2 blocks east of County Farm Road)

School Supplies
Health Services Information
Dental & Vision Screenings
All Kids Health Insurance
Legal Needs
Access DuPage
Voter Registration
Social Security Information
Financial Information
Child Development & Safety Information

Nutrition
Balloon art and a variety of games
Job Referrals
Township Services
Education & Housing
Haircut coupons
Face painting
Free books & novels
Shoe Vouchers *by appointment only*
(630) 407-6500

If you need an appointment for a school or sport physical, call 630.893.5230 (Bloomingdale) or 630.293.4124 (West Chicago) or 630.628.1811 (Addison).

Bacon Brothers Tickets Still Available

The Education Foundation's fundraiser has been rescheduled to May 14, and \$50 tickets still are available!

The Bacon Brothers will take the stage at the Tivoli at 8 p.m. Lobby doors will open at 6:30. Tickets are available at www.dg58ef.com; at the ASC; at Community Bank of Downers Grove, 1111 Warren Ave. and 718 Ogden Ave.; or by calling (630) 886-5641. To check out the Bacon Brothers' music, visit www.baconbros.com.

Visit www.lesterpta.com for the latest news!

Have a great summer!

